

First named inventor: Bhatti
Serial no. 10/010,641
Filed 11/5/2001
Attorney docket no. 10017079-1

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REMARKS

Status of claims

Independent claims 1, 8, 13, and 17 have been amended in the present office action response. Claim 1 has been substantially amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 3, and dependent claim 3 has been cancelled. Claim 8 has been substantially amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claim 11, and claim 11 has been cancelled. Claims 13 and 17 have also been amended to incorporate the limitations of dependent claims 3 and 11.

Claim rejections under 35 USC 102

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8, 10-11, 13, 15, and 17 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsubara (JP 06-092541). Claims 1, 8, 13, and 17 are independent claims, from which the remaining pending claims rejected under 35 USC 102(b) ultimately depend. Applicant asserts that the independent claims are patentable over Matsubara, such that all the pending claims are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Insofar as the rejection over Matsubara is concerned, Applicant discusses claim 1 as representative of all the independent claims 1, 8, 13, and 17. Claim 1 has been substantially amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 3, which depended from claim 1, and has not been cancelled. Claim 1 is thus now limited to “transmitting the print job from the user workstation to a printer *such that the printer receives the print job at the time identified by the user input* and then the printer prints the print job.” Applicant submits that the italicized limitation in particular is not found in Matsubara.

Matsubara discloses the following in its CONSTITUTION of Abstract:

[T]he execution scheduled time of the printing job to be executed next is acquired from the file 12, and *upon reaching that time, the printing job is executed to prepare a document file 13. After the output of the printing job, a document sorting control means 4 acquires the document printing data of the prepared*

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document 13 . . . The document printing data is then outputted . . . to a printing device 6.

(Emphasis added) Therefore, let us say that the time identified by the user input is time T. In the claimed invention, when the actual time t equals time T, the printer has received the print job.

By comparison, in Matsubara, when time t equals time T, a document file 13 is prepared. Only *after* this is performed does the means 4 acquire the document printing data of the document 13. And only *after* this is performed is the document printing data *then* output to the printing device 6. Thus, the printing device 6 does not receive the print job at the time T identified by the user input. Rather, the printing device 6 receives the print job at some actual time t *after* the time T – because when the actual time t equals the user-identified time T, Matsubara *first* prepares the document file 13, then the means 4 acquires the document printing data, and only *then* is the printing data even output to the printing device 6. Because preparing the document file 13, acquiring the document printing data, and outputting the printing data to the printing device 6 all take time, and since the document file 13 is prepared beginning when the actual time t equals the user-identified time T, there is no way that Matsubara's printing device receives the print job at the user-identified time T, in contradistinction to the claimed invention.

A simple table thus can show the differences between the claimed invention and Matsubara:

Time	Claimed invention	Matsubara
Actual time t equals user-identified time T	The print job has already been transmitted from the workstation, such that the printer receives the print job at time T	Execute print job to prepare document file
Actual time t equals t_1 later than time T		Means 4 acquires the document printing data of the document
Actual time t equals t_2 later than times t_1 and T		Printing data output to printing device
Actual time t equals t_3 later		Printing device receives

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than times t_2 , t_1 , and T	printing data (i.e., print job)
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This table therefore shows why Matsubara does not anticipate the claimed invention. In the claimed invention, the printer receives the print job at the user-identified time T, as formerly presented in dependent claims 3 and 11, and as now recited in the independent claims. By comparison, in Matsubara, at the user-identified time T, a process begins by which a print job is executed to prepare a document file. At some time t_1 later than the user-identified time T, the means 4 acquires the document printing data of this document, since preparing the document file has to take some time t_1 minus T. At some time t_2 later than the time t_1 and the user-identified time T, the printing data is output to the printing device, since acquiring the document printing data has to take some time t_2 minus t_1 . Finally, the printing device receives the printing data (i.e., the print job) at some time t_3 later than the times t_2 and t_1 , and thus later than the user-identified time T, since outputting the printing data to the printing device has to take some time t_3 minus t_2 .

Claim rejections under 35 USC 103

Claims 4, 9, and 18 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsubara in view of Zhang (6,016,478). Claims 19 and 20 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsubara in view of Okimoto (6,449,055). Claims 4, 9, and 18-20 are dependent claims, ultimately depending from one of the independent claims rejected under 35 USC 102(b). Therefore, claims 4, 9, and 18-20 are patentable at least because they depend from a patentable independent claim, as has been recited above.

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Conclusion

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the pending claims in condition for allowance, and request that they so be allowed. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Mike Dryja, Applicants' Attorney, at 425-427-5094, so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. For these reasons, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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